CLAIMS

1. A gasket for preventing high-temperature fluid of an internal combustion engine from leaking, the gasket being located between an adjacent pair of components of the engine, the gasket being **characterized by:**

a gasket plate made of an electrically insulating material, the gasket plate having a hole; and

an annular sealing member made of a material having a higher heat resistance than the gasket plate, wherein the annular sealing member covers part of the gasket plate that defines the hole.

2. The gasket according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the fluid is combustion gas generated as the engine operates.

3. The gasket according to claim 1 or 2, **characterized in that** the pair of the components are a cylinder block and a cylinder head, the cylinder block having a cylinder bore, and wherein the hole is formed to correspond to the cylinder bore.

4. The gasket according to any one of claims 1 to 3, **characterized in that** the electrically insulating material is a synthetic resin.

5. The gasket according to any one of claims 1 to 4, **characterized in that** the annular sealing member includes:

a pair of holding portions that hold the gasket plate in between; and

a coupler portion that couples the holding portions to each other in the hole.

6. The gasket according to claim 5, **characterized in that** the annular sealing member is formed by bending a plate member.

7. The gasket according to claim 5 or 6, **characterized by** a deformation restricting portion that restricts deformation of the annular sealing member along the thickness of the gasket plate.

8. The gasket according to claim 7, **characterized in that** the deformation restricting portion extends along the thickness of the gasket plate between the holding portions.

9. The gasket according to claim 8, **characterized in that** the deformation restricting portion has a length that is substantially equal to the thickness of the gasket plate.

10. The gasket according to any one of claims 7 to 9, **characterized in that** the deformation restricting portion is formed by bending part of one of the holding portions toward the other holding portion.

11. The gasket according to any one of claims 1 to 10, **characterized in that** the internal combustion engine has a cylinder, and the gasket plate is formed of a single plate member, the gasket further comprising:

a sensor for detecting a state in the cylinder, the gasket plate having a guide hole, wherein a lead extending from the sensor passes through the guide hole.

12. The gasket according to any one of claims 1 to 11, **characterized in that** the high heat resistance material is a stainless steel.

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 06 July 2005 (06.07.05)
original claims 1, 6, 8 and 10 amended; original claims 5 and 7 cancelled;
and remaining claims unchanged (2 pages)]

1. A gasket for preventing high-temperature fluid of an internal combustion engine from leaking, the gasket being located between an adjacent pair of components of the engine, wherein the gasket includes:

a gasket plate made of an electrically insulating material, the gasket plate having a hole; and

an annular sealing member made of a material having a higher heat resistance than the gasket plate, wherein the annular sealing member covers part of the gasket plate that defines the hole,

wherein the annular sealing member includes:

a pair of holding portions that hold the gasket plate in between; and

a coupler portion that couples the holding portions to each other in the hole,

the gasket being **characterized by**:

a deformation restricting portion that restricts deformation of the annular sealing member along the thickness of the gasket plate.

2. The gasket according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the fluid is combustion gas generated as the engine operates.

3. The gasket according to claim 1 or 2, **characterized in that** the pair of the components are a cylinder block and a cylinder head, the cylinder block having a cylinder bore, and wherein the hole is formed to correspond to the cylinder bore.

4. The gasket according to any one of claims 1 to 3, **characterized in that** the electrically insulating material is a synthetic resin.

5. (cancelled)

6. The gasket according to any one of claims 1 to 4, **characterized in that** the annular sealing member is formed by bending a plate member.

7. (cancelled)

8. The gasket according to any one of claims 1 to 6, **characterized in that** the deformation restricting portion extends along the thickness of the gasket plate between the holding portions.

9. The gasket according to claim 8, **characterized in that** the deformation restricting portion has a length that is substantially equal to the thickness of the gasket plate.

10. The gasket according to any one of claims 1 to 9, **characterized in that** the deformation restricting portion is formed by bending part of one of the holding portions toward the other holding portion.

11. The gasket according to any one of claims 1 to 10, **characterized in that** the internal combustion engine has a cylinder, and the gasket plate is formed of a single plate member, the gasket further comprising:

a sensor for detecting a state in the cylinder, the gasket plate having a guide hole, wherein a lead extending from the sensor passes through the guide hole.

12. The gasket according to any one of claims 1 to 11, **characterized in that** the high heat resistance material is a stainless steel.